



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Kevin Kerstein
Publicity Manager
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(610) 420-6971 (mobile)
(502) 635-4712 (office)
Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com

MULTIPLE GRADED STAKES WINNERS QUIP, TENFOLD TOP COMPETITIVE GRADE III, \$250,000 LUKAS CLASSIC

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019) – WinStar Farm, China Horse Club International and SF Racing's multiple graded stakes winner **Quip** will take on **Winchell Thoroughbreds'** four-time winner **Tenfold** and eight other rivals under the lights in Saturday's seventh running of the \$250,000 Lukas Classic Presented by Budweiser (Grade III) – one of three stakes events on an action-packed 11-race card for the final Downs After Dark of 2019 at Churchill Downs.

The 1 1/8-mile Lukas Classic, named in honor of Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas**, is the featured event of the night in Race 9 with a post time of 10:11 p.m. The first post is 6 p.m. The evening also features the \$150,000 Ack Ack Presented by GE Appliances (GIII) and the \$125,000 Jefferson Cup (Listed).

Trained by **Rodolphe Brisset**, Quip (10-4-2-1—\$1,054,451) was the narrow runner-up finisher behind **Seeking the Soul** in the \$600,000 Stephen Foster (GII) during the Spring Meet at Churchill Downs prior to his nonplused ninth in the \$1 million Pacific Classic (GI) at Del Mar. Quip began his 4-year-old campaign with a third-place effort in the \$100,000 Hal's Hope (GIII) at Gulfstream Park prior to the biggest win in his career in the \$750,000 Oaklawn Handicap (GII) in mid-April.

The son of Distorted Humor was on the Triple Crown trail in 2018 after winning the \$400,000 Tampa Bay Derby (GII) but following his defeat against **Justify** in the \$1.5 million Preakness (GI), Brisset gave the Kentucky-bred colt more than nine months on the sidelines before he returned in 2019.

Regular rider **Florent Geroux** has the mount on Quip, who drew post position No. 4.

Joining Quip in the starting gate is multiple graded stakes-winning Tenfold (12-4-0-1—\$961,890) for Hall of Fame trainer **Steve Asmussen**. The 4-year-old son of Curlin most recently finished fourth in the Pacific Classic and hopes to secure his first victory since winning the \$300,000 Pimlico Special (GIII) in May.

Like Quip, Tenfold ran in some of the top 3-year-old races in 2019. The colt did not qualify for the Kentucky Derby but instead rerouted to a third-place effort in the Preakness prior to winning the \$600,000 Jim Dandy (GII) at Saratoga.

Regular pilot **Ricardo Santana Jr.** will be in the irons from post 6.

Also entered in the Lukas Classic is **Steve Landers Racing's** \$100,000 Schaefer Memorial winner **Pioneer Spirit**, who is slated to return from a two-month layoff in search of his first graded stakes score.

Trained by **Brad Cox**, Pioneer Spirit (25-9-4-7—\$587,450) was a former \$35,000 claim in 2017 and has since won six races including back-to-back editions of the Schaefer Memorial at Indiana Grand.

Shaun Bridgmohan has the return call and will break from post 7.

Another top challenger in the Lukas Classic is \$200,000 West Virginia Governors Stakes (GIII) winner **Silver Dust** (23-5-6-2—\$594,777), who will attempt to turn the tables on Pioneer Spirit after finishing a head back of him in the Schaefer Memorial.

Trained by **Bret Calhoun**, Silver Dust will be piloted by regular rider **Jack Gilligan** out of post 9.

Another entrant in the race who has been facing the likes of Pioneer Spirit and Silver Dust is Mexican-bred **Kukulcan**. A multiple Grade I winner in his native country, Kukulcan (18-15-1-1—\$613,200) finished a length behind Pioneer Spirit and Silver Dust in the Schaefer Memorial and was a half-length behind Silver Dust in the West Virginia Governors Stakes.

Corey Laneire has the call on the **Fausto Gutierrez**-trainee from post 8.

The complete 10-horse Lukas Classic field from the rail out (with jockey, trainer and weight): **Hawaakom** (Miguel Mena, Wes Hawley, 121 pounds); **Blueridge Traveler** (Julien Leparoux, Kenny McPeck, 121); **Big Dollar Bill** (Chris Landeros, Ian Wilkes, 121); Quip (Geroux, Brisset, 125); **Sir Anthony** (James Graham, Anthony Mitchell, 123); Tenfold (Santana, Asmussen, 123); Pioneer Spirit (Bridgmohan, Cox, 121); Kukulcan (MEX) (Lanerrie, Gutierrez, 121); and Silver Dust (Gilligan, Calhoun, 123)

Presented by **Budweiser**, the theme for Saturday night's Downs After Dark event is **"Bourbon & Beats."** Guests are encouraged to wear shades of purple and stay on trend with autumn fashion as they celebrate a pairing of Kentucky sounds and spirits. Admission gates open Saturday at 5 p.m. and the final race of the evening is scheduled for 11:10 p.m. General admission is \$12 and reserved seat packages start at \$27, which are available for purchase on www.ChurchillDowns.com.

The **National Weather Service** forecast for Louisville calls for mostly sunny skies with a high near 90.

Saturday is the penultimate day of Churchill Downs' 11-date September Meet. Closing day is Sunday.

-more-

WEST COAST INVADER AIR STRIKE HEADS SATURDAY'S GRADE III, \$150,000 ACK ACK

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019) – Madaket Stables, Slam Dunk Racing and Michael Nentwig's graded stakes-winning **Air Strike** will invade Churchill Downs from California and headline a field of nine older horses in Saturday's 27th running of the \$150,000 Ack Ack Presented by GE Appliances (Grade III).

The one-turn mile race is one of three stakes events scheduled on the penultimate racing program of the track's 11-day September Meet. Also on the Saturday schedule are the \$250,000 Lukas Classic (GIII), a 1 1/8-mile race for 3-year-olds and up, and the \$125,000 Jefferson Cup (Listed), a 1 1/8-mile event for 3-year-olds on the Matt Winn Turf Course. The Ack Ack is carded as the seventh of 11 races on the program that begins at 6 p.m. (all times Eastern). Post time for the Ack Ack is scheduled for 9:05 p.m.

Trained by **Phil D'Amato**, Air Strike (12-3-2-1—\$337,310) defeated seven rivals in the \$200,000 Triple Bend (GII) at Santa Anita in May. The Street Sense colt most recently finished fourth in the \$600,000 Forego at Saratoga. Air Strike was a late-developing colt and debuted in the summer of 2018. The now 4-year-old will be reunited with jockey **Florent Geroux** for the Ack Ack from post 2. Geroux rode Air Strike as a 3-year-old to a runner-up effort in the \$250,000 Zia Park Derby and sixth-place finish in the \$300,000 San Antonio (GII).

Among Air Strike's rivals in the Ack Ack is **Kristin Boice**, **Leslie Cummings** and **Valorie Lund**'s 10-time winner **Mr. Jagermeister**. The Minnesota-bred son of Lund's prized stallion Atta Boy Roy, Mr. Jagermeister (17-10-3-2—\$493,537) sports three wins in a row entering the Ack Ack, including a 5 1/4-length score in the \$100,000 Minnesota Sprint Championship at his home track of Canterbury Park.

Regular rider **Leandro Goncalves** will have the mount from post 6.

Another horse likely to garner attention in the Ack Ack is **Two Dimes Stables'** six-time winner **Mr Darcy**, who finished a game second behind **Recruiting Ready** in a competitive-allowance contest two weeks ago at Churchill Downs. Recruiting Ready will likely be one of the top contenders in next Friday's \$250,000 Phoenix (GII) at Keeneland.

Mr Darcy (25-6-6-4—\$244,076) won back-to-back allowance contests this summer at Ellis Park for veteran conditioner **Angel Montano Sr. Jesus Castanon** has the call from post 5.

The complete Ack Ack field, in order of post position (with jockey and trainer): **Olympic Village** (David Cohen, Bob Hess Jr.); Air Strike (Geroux, D'Amato); **C Z Rocket** (Calvin Borel, Al Stall Jr.); **Thirstforlife** (Miguel Mena, Wes Hawley); Mr Darcy (Castanon, Montano); Mr. Jagermeister (Goncalves, Lund); **Mr Freeze** (Martin Chuan, Dale Romans); **Timeline** (Ricardo Santana Jr., Steve Asmussen); and **Unmatchable** (Tyler Baze, Asmussen).

All horses will tote 121 pounds, except for Olympic Village who will tote 118 and Air Strike who will carry 125.

CAESARS STAKES WINNER CORRUZE TOPS WIDE-OPEN \$125,000 JEFFERSON CUP

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019) – Chris Wilkins' \$200,000 Caesars Stakes winner **Corruze** leads a field of eight 3-year-olds in Saturday night's 43rd running of the \$125,000 Jefferson Cup (Listed) at Churchill Downs.

Carded as Race 8 with a post time of 9:39 p.m. (all times Eastern), the 1 1/8-mile turf contest is the second of three-consecutive stakes events on Saturday's 11-race Downs After Dark program which also features the \$150,000 Ack Ack (GIII) and \$250,000 Lukas Classic (Grade III).

Trained by **Chris Hartman**, Corruze actually crossed the wire second in the Caesars Stakes at Indiana Grand but was subsequently elevated to first following the disqualification of fellow Jefferson Cup contender **Spectacular Gem**. Corruze (6-3-0-0—\$182,389) will be ridden by **Corey Lanerie** from post 3.

Just to the inside of Corruze is the aforementioned Spectacular Gem who nearly pulled off a 35-1 upset in the Caesars Stakes. Instead, the state stewards ruled the 3-year-old colt interfered with several horses in deep stretch of the one-mile event and was demoted to fourth. Owned by **Candie Baker** and trained by **Jimmy Baker**, Spectacular Gem (10-2-1-3—\$85,970) will remove blinkers for the Jefferson Cup and be ridden by **James Graham**.

Also entered in the Jefferson Cup is **Sagamore Farm's Scars Are Cool**, who will test turf for the first time following an unsuccessful effort in the \$1.25 million Travers (GI) at Saratoga. Conditioned by veteran **Stan Hough**, Scars Are Cool (4-1-0-1—\$58,020) will be ridden by **Ricardo Santana Jr.** from the rail.

The Jefferson Cup field, from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): Scars Are Cool (Santana, Hough); Spectacular Gem (Graham, Baker); Corruze (Lanerie, Hartman); **Mick's Star** (Florent Geroux, Tom Amoss); **Faraway Kitten** (Julien Leparoux, Mike Maker); **Tracksmith** (Adam Beschizza, Joe Sharp); **Rijeka** (Chris Landeros, Richard Baltas); and **Clint Maroon** (Channing Hill, Wayne Catalano).

-END-